(b) if so, the details and the locations thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a new railway coach factory in North Eastern Region. However, a new Rail Coach Factory at Rae Bareily, Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned in the year 2006-07 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 1685 crores.

Proposals received from Punjab to construct overhead bridges and underground passages

74. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Punjab Government and local bodies in the State for the construction of overhead bridges and underground passages along the rail tracks, pending with the Railways at present;

(b) the number out of them that are pending for more than one year, as on 31st October, 2007; and

(c) the number of cases that are likely to be cleared by the end of this financial year and the time likely to be taken to complete work on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Six proposals have been received out of which one is on cost sharing basis and 5 on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT)/Deposit Terms.

(b) Two proposals, one on cost sharing basis and another on BOT concept are pending.

(c) Final sanction by Railways depends on the State Govt's. submission of firm proposals duly fulfilling the required conditions in the requisite format. No time for completion of such work can be given at this stage as works have not been sanctioned. The completion of Road over bridges also depends on completion of approaches by the State Government. However, Railways will make all out efforts to complete their portion of work before or simultaneously with the work of approaches to be done by State Government after the works are sanctioned.

Rail connections to hilly areas of Uttarakhand

75. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to connect all hilly regions of Uttarakhand by rail particularly from Kotdwara to Pauri and from Haridwar to Badrinath temple;

(b) whether Government would like to connect all pilgrim places of hilly areas by train; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Dose not arise.